Statement

List of Ministries where Consultative Committees could not be constituted for want of prescribed number of members

1. Ministry of Company Affairs
2. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
3. Ministry of Law and Justice
4. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources
5. Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
6. Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Ocean Development
7. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
8. Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation
9. Ministry of Mines
10. Ministry of Minorities Affairs
11. Ministry of Women and Child Development
12. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
13. Ministry of Planning
14. Department of Atomic Energy
15. Department of Space

Placing of India on "Watch List" by US

*64. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Annual Report 2006 of the States Department of the United States has categorized India as the sources, destination, and transit country for men, women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced or bonded labour and commercial sexual exploitation and placed our country in the "Watch List";

(b) if so, the details of Government's response, if any, conveyed to the US thereto;

(c) the basis of the said response; and

(d) the implications of a country being placed in the "Watch-List" by the US administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has noted the US practice of issuing global reports on such subjects and stated that such reports by their very nature are based on US view points and preconceptions and rejected any judgemental and prescriptive approach by a foreign Government. India and US have an ongoing dialogue on the subject of trafficking in persons and other transnational challenges and the approach of the 2006 report does not reflect the active cooperation on this subject between the two countries and is certainly not helpful to furthering our dialogue in this regard.

(c) The Government is of the opinion that there is sufficient recognition within India of the problem of trafficking. An elaborate mechanism of constitutional and other laws and regulations, an independent judiciary and free media exist within the country for the redressal of the problem. The Government is also currently considering additional steps to deal with this problem, including cooperating with other countries,. It does not consider that a judgemental and prescriptive approach to the problem by a foreign country is helpful in dealing with the problem.

(d) For countries on the Tier 2 "Watch List", the US Secretary of State is required to submit to the US Congress, an "interim assessment" of anti-trafficking efforts of that country in February of each year.

Requests for Kuwait war compensation

*68. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of requests for the Kuwait war compensation from the large number of people from Kerala;

(b) whether Government have requested to the United Nations Compensation Commission to extend the prescribed time limit for the submission of applications; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) A Total of 33116 persons from Kerala had applied for compensation within the deadline of 1st January, 1996,